

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface comprising: ~~the step of~~ jetting against a surface to be cleaned, a cleaning fluid comprising a liquid base fluid and degradable particles wherein the degradable particles act as an abrasive agent and wherein the degradable particles have an average particle size ~~greater than 300 μ m~~ of from about 350 μ m to about 2,380 μ m and wherein the cleaning fluid is jetted at the surface to be cleaned at a jet pressure differential of above about 60 psi; and
allowing at least a portion of at least one of the degradable particles to degrade.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the base fluid comprises an aqueous fluid.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the base fluid ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of fresh water, salt water, brine, seawater, ~~or a combination and combinations thereof.~~
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable particle is a solid particle ~~comprising a polysaccharide; a chitin; a chitosan; a protein; an aliphatic polyester; a poly(lactide); a poly(glycolide); a poly(ϵ -caprolactone); a poly(hydroxybutyrate); a poly(anhydride); an aliphatic polycarbonate; a poly(orthoester); a poly(amino acid); a poly(ethylene oxide); a polyphosphazene; a polyvinyl alcohol; poly(adipic anhydride); poly(suberic anhydride); poly(sebacic anhydride); poly(dodecanedioic anhydride); poly(maleic anhydride); poly(benzoic anhydride); or a combination thereof~~ that comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, chitins, chitosans, proteins, aliphatic polyesters, poly(lactides), poly(glycolides), poly(ϵ -caprolactones), poly(hydroxybutyrates), poly(anhydrides), aliphatic polycarbonates, poly(orthoesters), poly(amino acids), poly(ethylene oxides), polyphosphazenes, polyvinyl alcohols, poly(adipic anhydrides), poly(suberic anhydrides), poly(sebacic anhydrides), poly(dodecanedioic anhydrides), poly(maleic anhydrides), poly(benzoic anhydrides), and combinations thereof.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable particle is a solid particle comprising a dehydrated salt.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable particle is a solid particle ~~comprising a solid anhydrous borate, anhydrous sodium tetraborate, anhydrous boric acid, or a combination thereof~~ that comprises a material selected from the group consisting of solid anhydrous borates, anhydrous sodium tetraborate, anhydrous boric acid, and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the base fluid comprises a nonaqueous fluid.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the nonaqueous base fluid ~~comprises a mineral oil, a synthetic oil, an ester, or a combination thereof~~ is selected from the group consisting of mineral oils, synthetic oils, esters, and combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the cleaning fluid further comprises a compound that will produce water upon degradation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the degradable particle further comprises a compound that will produce water upon degradation.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the compound that will produce water upon degradation ~~comprises a hydrate of an organic acid; a hydrate of an organic acid salt; a hydrate of an inorganic acid; a hydrate of an inorganic acid salt; a starch-based polymer; a cellulose-based hydrophilic polymer; or a combination thereof~~ is selected from the group consisting of hydrates of organic acids, hydrates of organic acid salts, hydrates of inorganic acids, hydrates of inorganic acid salts, starch-based polymers, cellulose-based hydrophilic polymers, and combinations thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the compound that will produce water upon degradation ~~comprises a hydrate of an organic acid; a hydrate of an organic acid salt; a hydrate of an inorganic acid; a hydrate of an inorganic acid salt; a starch-based polymer; a cellulose-based hydrophilic polymer; or a combination thereof~~ is selected from the group consisting of hydrates of organic acids, hydrates of organic acid salts, hydrates of inorganic acids, hydrates of inorganic acid salts, starch-based polymers, cellulose-based hydrophilic polymers, and combinations thereof.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the degradable particles have an average particle size of from about 400 mesh to about 8 mesh.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cleaning fluid is jetted at the surface to be cleaned at a jet pressure differential of below about 2,000 psi.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cleaning fluid is jetted at the surface to be cleaned at an angle from about 30 degrees to about 70 degrees relative to the surface to be cleaned.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the cleaning fluid further comprises ~~a scale inhibitor, a chelating agent, a corrosion inhibitor, a clay stabilizer, or a combination thereof~~ an additive selected from the group consisting of scale inhibitors, chelating agents, corrosion inhibitors, clay stabilizers, and combinations thereof.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cleaning fluid comprises from about 0.1 to about 1 pound of degradable particles per gallon of base fluid.

19.- 59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a surface comprising: ~~the step of~~ jetting against a surface to be cleaned, a cleaning fluid comprising a liquid base fluid and degradable particles wherein the degradable particles act as an abrasive agent and wherein the degradable particles comprise a degradable polymer; and
allowing at least a portion of at least one of the degradable particles to degrade.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the wherein the degradable polymer is a solid particle ~~comprising a polysaccharide; a chitin; a chitosan; a protein; an aliphatic polyester; a poly(lactide); a poly(glycolide); a poly(ϵ -caprolactone); a poly(hydroxybutyrate); a poly(anhydride); an aliphatic polycarbonate; a poly(orthoester); a poly(amino acid); a poly(ethylene oxide); a polyphosphazene; a polyvinyl alcohol; poly(adipic anhydride); poly(suberic anhydride); poly(sebacic anhydride); poly(dodecanedioic anhydride); poly(maleic anhydride); poly(benzoic anhydride); or a combination thereof~~ that comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, chitins, chitosans, proteins, aliphatic polyesters, poly(lactides), poly(glycolides), poly(ϵ -caprolactones), poly(hydroxybutyrates), poly(anhydrides), aliphatic polycarbonates, poly(orthoesters), poly(amino acids), poly(ethylene oxides), polyphosphazenes, polyvinyl alcohols, poly(adipic anhydrides), poly(suberic anhydrides), poly(sebacic anhydrides), poly(dodecanedioic anhydrides), poly(maleic anhydrides), poly(benzoic anhydrides), and combinations thereof.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 60 wherein the degradable particles have an average particle size ~~greater than 300 μm~~ of from about 350 μm to about 2,380 μm .